

He is also remembered for the tremendous impact he had on his family, friends, and community. Friends recall that he was never too busy to help out with a problem.

Chief Warrant Officer David Carter personifies the honor and selflessness of service as a citizen soldier. His bravery and dedication to duty will not be forgotten.

As a Marine Corps combat veteran, my deepest sympathies go out to his family, his fellow soldiers, and all who knew him.

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to come before this body today to celebrate the end of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

For too long, American service men and women selflessly fought to protect our freedoms without receiving the same freedoms and protections in return. Under this flawed policy, we dismissed 14,000 patriots from our forces, and we turned away countless more Americans who simply wanted to volunteer to defend the country that we share.

Today our Nation shows the world that we can rise above prejudice and fear and take a long overdue step towards protecting our servicemembers and reducing discrimination in America.

But I am sad to say that this weekend, we received a terrible reminder that our work is not done. A 14-year-old boy from my community who was teased by his classmates about his sexual orientation took his own life. This heartbreaking tragedy was needless and should be a reminder to all of us that there are many more like Jamey Rodemeyer who are made by some to believe that it's not okay to be who they are.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of how far we've come, but I know that there remains a long road ahead of us. I am committed to continuing this fight for full equality for all Americans and explore my colleagues to do the same.

"NO" VOTE NEEDED BY U.N.

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, Palestinian Authority President Abbas plans to seek recognition of a Palestinian state before the United Nations. A vote in the U.N. will bypass bilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the P.A. and will threaten the success of a mutual solution.

Leaders in the United States, Israel, and the P.A. have long worked toward a mutual solution, and the P.A., seeking unilateral recognition from the U.N. is not only harmful to these ef-

forts, but also to the security of the State of Israel.

It's also important to note that the action coincides with a period of extreme volatility between Israel and their Middle Eastern neighbors. Israel's alliance with Turkey has continued to unravel over the past year, and its peace agreement with Egypt is in jeopardy.

The Palestinian Authority's move to circumvent direct talks with Israel will undermine Israel's right to exist. I call for President Abbas to withdraw his request for a U.N. vote and instead finally agree to sit down at the negotiating table with the U.S. and Israel to develop a mutual, legitimate solution.

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. As a former lieutenant commander in the United States Navy Reserve, I rise to applaud the repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

This backward policy has turned away over 14,000 able-bodied men and women from our military while our Nation is fighting two wars. It wasted over \$1.3 billion taxpayer dollars through investigations, legal proceedings, and wasted training for fighter pilots, mechanics, medics, and even Arabic translators.

I am proud to have fought for this necessary change and feel privileged to have been able to cast my vote to make this misguided policy a relic of the past. Our military can now recruit and train qualified patriotic and courageous Americans who want to serve our country regardless of their sexual orientation.

During my service in the United States Navy Reserve, I served with many dedicated men and women who were always ready to serve their country. I was never concerned about their sexual orientation. Implementation of repeal marks not just an increase in military readiness but a significant step forward for civil rights and equality.

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RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the history and accomplishments of the Kansas School for the Deaf as we prepare to celebrate the school's sesquicentennial this week. It was 150 years ago that Philip A. Emery began teaching deaf students in a small two-room schoolhouse in Baldwin City, Kansas, using the techniques of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.

Throughout the years, the Kansas School for the Deaf has been noted for its academic excellence in pre-college preparation and its career and transition program, leading to job placement upon graduation.

Along the way, the school has had many exciting moments, including almost being destroyed in Quantrill's infamous sacking of Lawrence, Kansas, and even boasts of beating the University of Kansas baseball team twice, in 1897 and 1900.

As the oldest educational institution in the State of Kansas, the Kansas School for the Deaf continues to provide a world-class education to young students, and I am proud in the United States Congress to represent the school and its many families and students.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, September is the month in which we celebrate the many contributions Latinos have made and continue to make to our great country.

Hispanic Americans are our teachers, religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, health care providers, astronauts, scientists, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. They are local and national officials providing leadership in the face of unprecedented challenges both at home and abroad.

But perhaps our greatest pride comes from our impressive record of service to this country. When grave threats imperil America's freedom, Latinos answer the call. This is highlighted by the fact that Latino servicemen and -women have earned more medals and commendations per combatant than any other ethnic group.

As we celebrate the contributions Latinos have made to our country, let us not forget our future. The stories of our Nation's Latino trailblazers serve as an inspiration to young Latinos; but like all American children, they must have the opportunity to develop their talents and reach their full potential to keep our country great.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure all of America's children are prepared to lead. Only then can America realize its promise in the 21st century.

THE OFFICIAL REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the historic, official repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Today, nearly two decades after its enactment, our lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers can finally serve and defend the country they love without the fear of being discharged. Never